

Brother Mitch in the wee hours of the dance.

FALCONS FLY AT FEBRUARY DANCES

by Maria Valletta

Once again Bishop Ford held its annual St. Valentine's Dance. Actually, two dances were held to celebrate the occasion. The first, February 12th, was planned by the juniors. The freshmen and sophomores planned the second dance, held on Saturday, February 13th. They chose "The Ma and Pop Hop" for their dance. It was the first dance to be held this year. For the juniors, however, it was their second dance. The J.A.C. (Junior Activities Committee) members feel that it was as successful as their Thanksgiving Dance. Tickets were on sale for both at \$5.00 for couples and \$3.00 for singles. Both dances were fun-filled nights from 8:00 p.m. until midnight with plenty of refreshments and music.

SENIOR SKI TRIP A SMASH

by Mary Ann Svec and Angela Diorio

Every year the senior ski trip is a much anticipated event, and this year was no different. On January 29, the seniors took off for the slopes of the Taminent Resort in the Poconos. There were many different activities one could indulge in; among them were tennis, swimming, ice skating, horseback riding, snowmobiling and, of course, skiing.

The chaperones kept a constant vigil over the seniors, looking out for their well being. The chaperones were led by Senior Coordinator Dr. Tony Defina and included Mr. Mingrone, Miss Sarnelle, Mr. Ozga, Miss Scavuzzo, Mr. Chiusano, Mrs. Molloy, Mr. Panopulous and Mr. Radigan.

For some it was the first experience on skis, but other members of the senior class were already pros on the slopes. It was a lot of fun and laughs watching the various styles used to reach the end of the slope.

The long awaited trip came to an end, but the memorable events the seniors shared with one another will be imprinted on their memories for a long time to come.

HIGH POINT

Vol. 6, No. 3

BISHOP FORD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

January-February, 1982

FORD SUPERDANCE RAISES \$25,000

by Mark Basta, Mario Marsillo and Angela Diorio

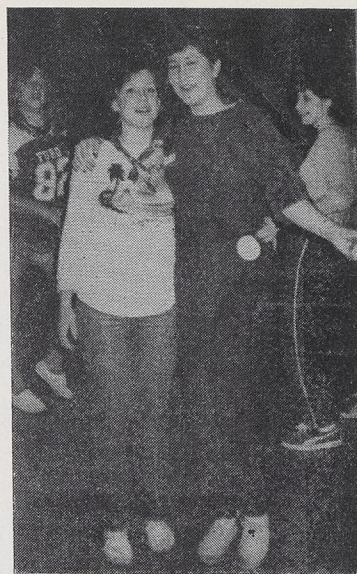
One hundred and eighty pairs of dancing feet, plus numberless pairs of helping hands, added up to more than \$25,000 donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Association by the students and adults of the Bishop Ford Central Catholic High School community. This second annual dance-a-thon, sponsored by the Student Council and the National Honor Society, held on January 15th and 16th, raised a total sum which surpassed

that of any other high school in Brooklyn.

Prominent among the dancers was Brother Michel Bettigole, O.S.F. who is the only principal in New York City to dance the whole 24 hours. Brother Michel stated that it is probably the finest activity run by the school, especially since it involves so many members of the school community: dancers, committee members, faculty, parents, and students. It is also great for school unity and morale.

Two dancing faculty members were enthusiastic in their

evaluation of the whole process. Mr. Ralph Iavazzi, a member of the Ford religion department, expressed his feelings when he said, "The biggest success of the dance-a-thon was to see so many young people actually 'living' their Christian Faith. Their generous action of giving their whole selves for other people was certainly an example of imitating the life of Jesus." The science department's Miss Lorraine Sarnelle was amazed by the turn-out. "We could never have raised \$25,000 if kids' hearts hadn't been in it," she said.



Ford girls dancing for dollars.

HIGHPOINT welcomes letters to the editor from responsible individuals.



Falcons await start of MD Dance-a-thon.



Seniors hang in there at the Dance-a-thon.



Superdance champs ham it up for the camera.

SPECIAL STUDENTS JOIN COMMUNITY

by Mark Basta

This year at Bishop Ford a unique program was started in response to the need of special students, ages 18 to 21, to develop more competence in social, job and independence skills. Because of their varied levels of intelligence, these students receive individualized instruction.

In this program, the students take a half day of academic subjects (math and language communication). In math their abilities range from simple addition and subtraction to learning how to balance a budget. The reading and writing skills are taught to the students in the language communication aspect of the program. The students' reading levels range from first through seventh grades. Their writing skills vary from being able to print the letters of the alphabet to writing business letters and short stories.

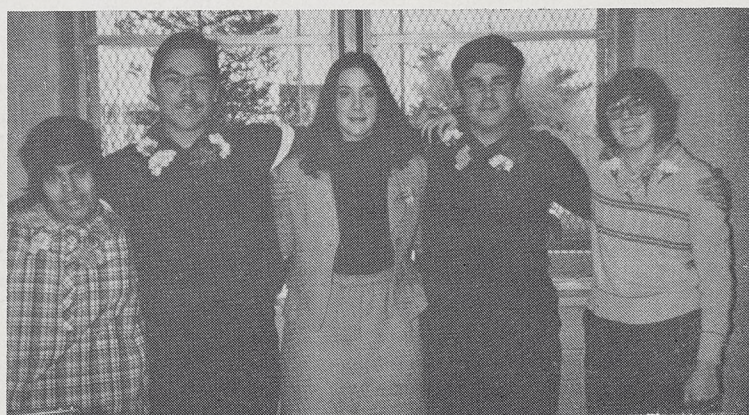
The other half of the day is spent in learning various job and independence skills. Job skills entail collating, alphabetizing and filing material, to name a few. The students receive some practical experience through performing different jobs given to them within the school. At the beginning of the year, they alphabetized the computer sheets and scheduling cards of the student body. They fold business letters and enclose them in envelopes for various school organizations. While the students are per-

forming these duties, they are timed on the speed and accuracy of their work. Doing these jobs for the school gives the students a sense of pride and accomplishment. The independence part of the program involves learning skills in socialization, health education, travel by public transportation, and adult living. Some examples are appropriate conversation with others, planning meals and shopping, learning how to use the subway map to aid in traveling, and housekeeping skills.

Job opportunities are available to these students in retail stores, business offices and food services. When a student is able to fulfill all the requirements necessary for a particular job, he or she begins to work in a part-time position under the close supervision of the job coordinator and the teacher.

At the beginning of the year, the students in this program were concerned about how the Ford students and faculty would react to them. But, on the whole, the faculty and students at Bishop Ford have taken them in as their friends.

This program is taught by Mrs. Loretta Lucie, who feels that the kids are great; she is happy about the way her students have adapted to the school environment. The special kids who are in this program are Nick Bova, Christine Galupo, Roman Hywel, Michael Reid and Barbara Lynch.



Christine Galupo, Roman Hywel, Mrs. Lucie, Nick Bova and Barb Lynch.

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

by David Wildner

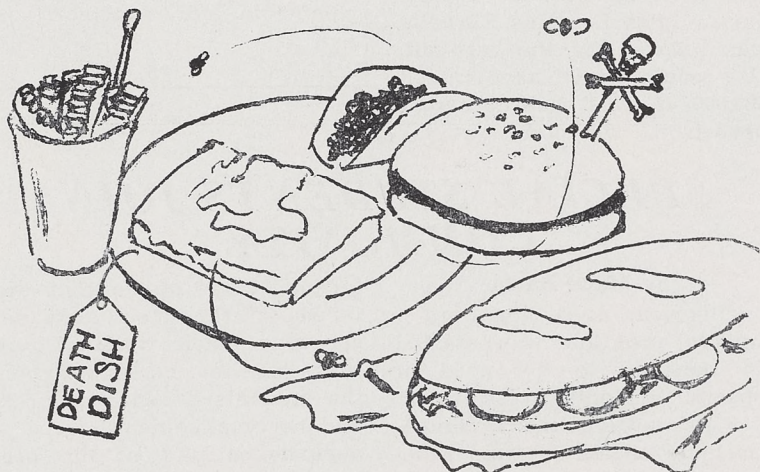
A long, long time ago, in a school far, far away, in a cafeteria not unlike our own, a young student named Duke Hallwalker took a dangerous chance: he decided to buy a sandwich. Little did he know that he was taking his life into his own hands. Duke, being not unlike many of our own students, strolled along the food line to buy himself a unique method of suicide. Hearing the resounding call, "Fella, fella," he turned to see the leader of the gang that produced this foul "stuff."

Once the sound of her screeching voice reached his ears, he quickly picked up a sandwich, not even looking to see what kind it was. He then strutted up to the cashier to pay for his poison, noting the vicious smile on her face. As he paid for his meal, he couldn't help but hear the lady mutter, "You'll be sorry."

As Duke sat down to eat this hideous thing that someone had deemed edible, he felt funny. As he performed this last action as a living human being, he noticed that this sandwich smelled differently from the rest; it didn't carry a disgusting odor, but a mouth-watering aroma.

Taking a bite, he then realized that this sandwich actually tasted good. Its long slices of juicy roast beef melted in his mouth. He thought to himself, "This is really good."

Now, we all know this is pure fiction. But we can dream, can't we?



The cafeterias of large operations such as schools, office buildings, factories and hospitals are notorious for a decided lack of quality in their food. It is well understood by this editorial staff that when one has as rigid a schedule, as tight a budget, and as heavy a cooking and cleaning job as such institutions have, this is bound to be true.

But those facts still do not and will never excuse charging the average price of a dollar for sandwiches that are stale, dry and tasteless, for serving cardboard as pizza and charging 45¢ for it, and for selling, at one and a quarter, veal cutlets and chicken that taste like they came from Burger King. At times the school cafeteria is almost as bad as our near-by food stores, which is not to say that it at all resembles that sleazy dump of a chiselling store; it merely approaches it.

We are fully aware of the high price of food stuffs. We are fully aware that the cafeteria must charge realistic prices. We are fully prepared to pay those realistic prices, perhaps even higher ones.

But the food must be worth the prices.

THE POLAND CRISIS

The situation in Poland is, without a doubt, a serious one. The fate of a nation, and of a people, lies in the hands of a harsh and heavy-handed tyrant. The general himself is but the helpless pawn of one of the cruelist and most powerful dictatorships in the history of mankind. But is this situation really as earthshakingly dangerous as our President and his Secretary of State say it is? Perhaps not.

First of all, this is not the first time the Polish people have been caught in the cruel hand of tyranny. In fact, it is because they have so often been harshly ruled by tyrants, both of their own and foreign blood, that the Poles are such a devoutly religious and freedom-loving people. Trial and travail have molded the people of Poland into a most hard and enduring nation. Even when there was no Poland, there was always a Polish people, fighting for their and other people's independence, as Kosciuszko did. The people of Poland and their Solidarity will endure; the situation is not so dire as we make it out to be.

Secondly, we seem to recall similar pronouncements about El Salvador and Nicaragua, and always about Cuba. The sky is still blue. And the American flag is still flying over Washington. This seems so much like a game called **Red Alert**. Any time a nation is dominated or "threatened" by Marxism, even if that ideology is what they have chosen, you sound the alarm for three weeks and then stop mentioning the place, as if it no longer existed. You, of course, keep mum about places like Argentina and Haiti; after all, they are our friends, as are the CIA and the El Salvadorian National Security Force.

And, thirdly, there really isn't much you can do about the problem. There was something to do in 1947, but that's long gone. So, why should you get so neurotic about it all?

After all, sooner or later all tyrants are toppled.

HIGHPOINT

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WORLD LACKS CHARISMATIC LEADERSHIP

by Sal Giglio

Originally I intended to write a story on how President Reagan's old movies would affect foreign policy.

Instead, I am writing about a speech made by the now famous author, Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., in which he told the newspaper staff at Cornell, "I pity you people of today for not having truly great leaders to write about." Unfortunately, this is very true. Today's leaders are very ordinary people with extensive power. I attribute most of their commonness to technology. Today a world leader does not summon his generals, reinstate the draft and alert his people to war. He merely pushes the buttons at his disposal. Take a look at one of today's most influential leaders, Fidel Castro. Here is a man who is single-handedly ridding his country of insomnia with all of his speeches. And his clothes are also noteworthy. If there are forty thousand people in the Cuban army today, that means that forty thousand people have the same wardrobe. Another big leader on today's political scene is Menachem Begin. And why is it I always confuse Margaret Thatcher with the lady who killed the Scarsdale diet doctor? And Pierre Elliot Trudeau has become a household name all over the world, if not for his political contribution in Canada, because his ex-wife has written a book mentioning at least two members of the Rolling Stones.

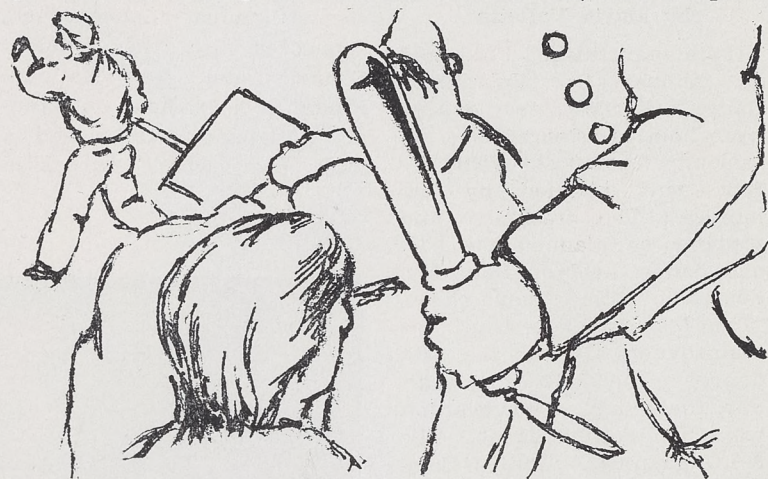
Keeping all of this in mind, I am making a public plea to Bishop Ford's leader, Brother Michel. Be colorful and charismatic but, most of all, assertive. And to all of the leaders in the world today: dismantle all of your missiles, destroy the computers. Get hold of a lot of fighting men, tanks and guns. Let's make war fun again.

A SOLDIER'S SONG

by Edward MacPepaoighe

Northern Ireland is the smallest of the four countries that make up the United Kingdom, the other three being England, Scotland and Wales. This province, which is slightly larger than our state of Connecticut, has been a major American topic of concern. Although few students here at Bishop Ford are ethnically Irish, all would like to know what is going on there. They ask me all sorts of questions dealing with this real problem like: "Why are the Catholic and Protestants trying so hard to eliminate each other?" "Why are British troops occupying the North of Ireland?" "What is the IRA, and why are they killing so many people?" "Why have convicted IRA prisoners gone on hunger strike?" These questions shall be answered in this article, but first it is necessary to examine the late history of Northern Ireland.

Until 1982, Northern Ireland was the only British Crown State (BCS) to have its own governor, prime minister, and provisional cabinet. It even had its own parliament, much like the official one in London. Catholics and Protestants alike had the right to speak out on governmental issues, vote for their own representatives for seats in the House of Commons, and other privileges. However, in 1970 and 1971 many serious riots broke out between the two extremist groups. The Catholics charged the Protestants with violating their civil rights and the Protestants charged the Catholics with conspiring to overthrow the provisional government. The British government, fearing the outbreak of civil war, sent troops to



Northern Ireland to stop the fighting. They were also given orders to set up blockades in Belfast, the capital city, dividing Catholic and Protestant areas, districts, and neighborhoods. Blockades were also set up in other large cities such as Londonderry, Dungannon, and South Armagh. Finally, in 1972 the British parliament passed a bill that ended provisional home rule. An appointed governor-general from London was sent to rule over the state. This did not stop the violence, though. Frequent IRA (Irish Republican Army) bomb attacks raged throughout the province. Many other attacks hit major British military installations, whilst snipers pinned British troops down in the streets. The IRA is a guerrilla organization whose purpose is the total withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland and the reunification of the province with the independent Republic of Ireland (Eire). Imprisoned IRA men have charged the London government with providing harsh and inhuman conditions in the prisons. What they wish for is the right to wear civilian clothing, converse with their fellow inmates, be allowed to receive letters from their families, and to have better food. They have tried a number of ways to get what they want, such as: prison take-overs, bribing prison guards, speaking in Irish (Gaelic) amongst themselves to plan breakouts, and, of course, breakouts. All of these methods have failed. So, they tried the ultimate weapon, death by slow, self-starvation. The most popular of all hunger strikers today, Robert Gerald Sands, triggered off many inmates in other prisons throughout the province to kill themselves in this most painful manner. His death caused the many violent riots that left over one-hundred and twenty people dead or seriously injured. Following in his tracks, ten other IRA inmates went on hunger strike. All ten are dead. Four out of these ten will be remembered by Irish Catholics as heroes and martyrs: Francis Hughes, Raymond MacCreesh, Padraig O'Hara, and Joseph McDonnell. These hunger strikers were out to prove something. No, not to prove that they could lose forty-seven pounds faster than anybody else, as one joker put it. The hunger strikers wanted to show the world how cruel the British are; they would rather die than live in such inhuman conditions as the British provide.

Because of the deaths of the hunger strikers and the lack of negotiations between British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Irish Prime Minister (Taoiseach) Garret Fitzgerald, the violence lingers on. Troops still have to patrol Protestant Shankill districts and Catholic Falls districts in order to maintain order. The most fierce violence occurs in the 'Apache Territory' of Northern Ireland, Belfast's Ballymurphy district. Paratroopers and stormtroopers patrol the area daily, making sure that the two groups don't clash again.

How about the teenagers and children of Ulster? How can they live in such a desolate place? That is also a sad subject. The young people of Northern Ireland have become 'immune' to what goes on, not caring if their best friends die, so long as they mind their own business. There are no playgrounds there. Children play in the slums of their own designated districts among themselves. An old abandoned tank or half-track becomes a place to play tag. These children have never known a peaceful childhood as you and I have. Death is everywhere, and peace is an 'impossible dream.

How long will the "troubles" continue? No one knows.

Student Focus:**FAYE PURPURA**

Faye Purpura.

by Wendy Lau

Bishop Ford has had Faye Purpura as one of its students for three-and-a-half years. She has helped the school tremendously and, in her fourth and final year at Ford, she continues to do so.

In her grammar school, Our Lady of Angels, Faye was on the honor roll every year and played basketball for three years. But at Ford she has accomplished even more. Her activities include being secretary of the National Honor Society in 1981 and president in 1982, varsity volleyball (4 years), Drama Club (4 years), Senior Leader, teaching physical education, Student Council and the Senior Activities Committee.

Along with all the above, Faye has found time to play leading roles in "Anything Goes," "The Boyfriend," "Seven Nuns at Las Vegas," and "Auntie Mame." She also managed to star in "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" in the title role.

Faye travels extensively during her free time. In her sophomore year, she was able to combine work and pleasure

by taking part in a natural science course trip to Yosemite during the summer. She even went to Belgium with the volleyball team that same year.

She has been involved in many projects such as the Sock Hop, the Blood Drive, and the Orphan's Party. She's participated in the Dance-a-thon for Muscular Dystrophy as co-chairman. She was involved in last year's Dance-a-thon, also.

Faye's academic courses this year include Advanced Biology, Human Physiology, Analysis and Shakespeare.

Her future includes going to college. She has applied to Iona, St. John's University and Fordham. She plans to go to Fordham and major in biology or pursue a job in the travel industry, and maybe both!

She's also trying out for volleyball scholarships to different colleges, such as Syracuse and Iona, and hoping for an Academic Excellence Scholarship to St. John's.

Faye pensively commented, "My four years at Ford have been very rewarding, and I'm going to miss life at Ford very much."

ERIN GO BRAGH

by Patricia Miller

St. Patrick was a Christian missionary and is the patron saint of Ireland. He was called the Apostle of Ireland, converted most of Ireland to Christianity, and organized the Irish Church. While the Roman Empire and its culture were crumbling, he turned Ireland into a Christian outpost that later sent missionaries back to convert and educate Britain and Europe.

Many stories about Patrick are based only on legend. One of the best known tales tells how he charmed the snakes of Ireland into the sea so that they were drowned. According to another legend, Patrick used a three-leaf shamrock to illustrate the idea of the Trinity. Many people believe that the shamrock came to be the traditional symbol of Ireland as a result of this.

Today, Irish Catholics throughout the world celebrate Saint Patrick's Day on March 17. What will we do at Ford?

KINKS BREAK STONES' RECORD AT GARDEN

by Sonia Maria Lopez

Giving the people what they want, that is what **The Kinks** have been doing for the past 20 years.

Many people ask, "Who are the Kinks?" They are a good band, inaccurately labeled a "seminal influence" or "cult band." Best known for their song "LOLA," the group's members are Dave Davies, Ray Davies, Mick Avory, Ian Gibbons and Jim Rodford. They recently hit the charts with their song, "Destroyer."

Their recent concert at the Garden was a fabulous success. It broke the record for the quickest sale of tickets since the Rolling Stones' concert.

YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS A SCHOOL BAND!

by Steven Bozga

"Hey! Like, is there a school band?" a friend of mine asked.

"I think so," I responded.

"Aren't they the guys you see at the end of the year who get an award for just showing up at practice?"

"I don't know. But I know of another group who go to Ford but aren't the official band."

"Who cares?"

"They do."

"The who?"

"Majestic."

"I think I've heard of them," he said. I told him I certainly had.

"What do they do?"

"Cover-versions and a few originals," I said.

"Top 40?"

"No, it's heavy metal, I think. I don't know what it is, but it's live and loud. Whatever it is, it all sounds like rock to me. Did you catch them at the dance-a-thon?"

"No."

"You didn't miss much; they weren't really allowed to play."

"Why? Were they bad?"

"No, they got all their gear to play two sets at twelve and four and then were told to do an aborted version of the two at one."

"Why?"

"Some guy said they weren't dancing."

"The band?"

"No, stupid, the dancers."

"Is that the only reason?"

"No, I don't think the guy likes rock."

"Everybody likes rock."

"Oh, yeah?"

"Well, just about."

"It's not the first time he's done it. He screwed a few other gigs, too, someone told me."

"How do they sound?"

"Well, they're not **The Who**, but they can play."

"Anybody can do that."

"Oh, yeah? Try it! I'll bet you can't even hold a guitar, let alone play one. Don't knock something you can't do better."

"Well, I know what sounds good."

"So shut up and listen! They've got potential. It's a start. And, anyway, they're having a good time doing it."

BEHIND THE SCENES AT HIGHPOINT

by Liz O'Keeffe

The first step on the way to a **HIGHPOINT** issue is **ideas**. Editors flip through the school calendar and think of interesting and exciting news to fill **HIGHPOINT**'s pages. Once this is done, the articles are assigned to our reporters. They have one week to get their assignments back to Mr. McKay, **HIGHPOINT**'s moderator. During this time, the reporter must set up an interview with the party involved, get all the relevant information possible, and then write the actual article. These manuscripts are proofread by the editors, and then sent to a printer, who sets all the copy into print.

When these galleys return (after at least a week), the editors get to work laying out the articles creatively on pages. Extra-long articles, balance, and run-together headlines are just some of the

problems encountered. The toughest part of the process is composing headlines.

Another aspect of the paper is its cartoons and photographs. The photography editor assigns the needed pictures to her staff. If these people are not reliable, all the work will be left to the editor. Cartoons are drawn according to the theme of an article; they are usually done by the art editors themselves.

Finally, the paper, cartoons and pictures are put together and sent back to the printer. In a week, the editors meet again to make any necessary corrections in the proofs, and a week later, in homeroom, the finished product is distributed.

From what I've seen, the paper serves a dual purpose. Having been read, it turns into a handy book cover, just in time for social studies.

Inquiring Reporter:**WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE SUPERDANCE?**

by Patty Miller and Sonia Lopez

Question: What did you think of the Superdance?

Debbie Pezzolla: "Being in it was great, and I would do it again if given the opportunity."

Steve Hanratty: "I had a good time. I can't wait till next year to do it again."

Joy Molinari: "Even though I wasn't there, I thought it was great to have it."

Stephanie Kieszak: "I thought it was a great experience. I also had a lot of fun. Even though I felt tired after it, I thought the cause was worth it."

Mr. Frank Fusco and Mr. Joseph Mingrone were volunteer helpers during the entire marathon. The former praised teenagers by stating, "When teenagers are given the opportunity they can give so much love and concern for humanity," while the latter continued this line of thought

when he added that all involved gave up so much, expecting nothing in return except the satisfaction of having helped others less fortunate than themselves.

Student response was equally enthusiastic. Some additional thoughts and reflections of those involved:

Kathy Parke, junior: "It gave me a great feeling to know that my dancing for 24 hours helped many handicapped people."

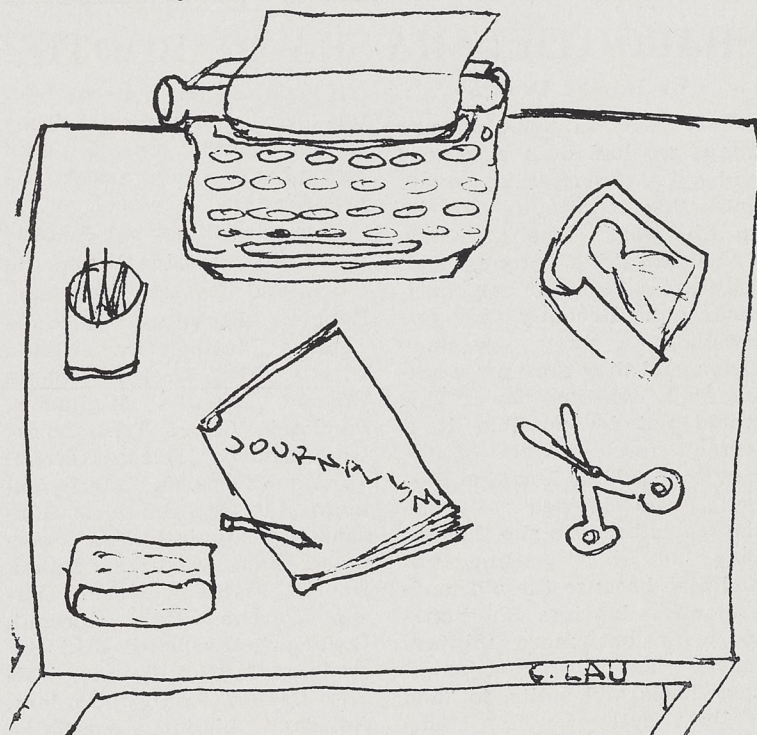
Karen Boan, sophomore: "The music was great, the people were lots of fun, and the best part is that it was for a wonderful cause."

Susan Garcia, sophomore: "The dance-a-thon was the best thing I've ever done for other people. I wouldn't hesitate to do it again at any time."

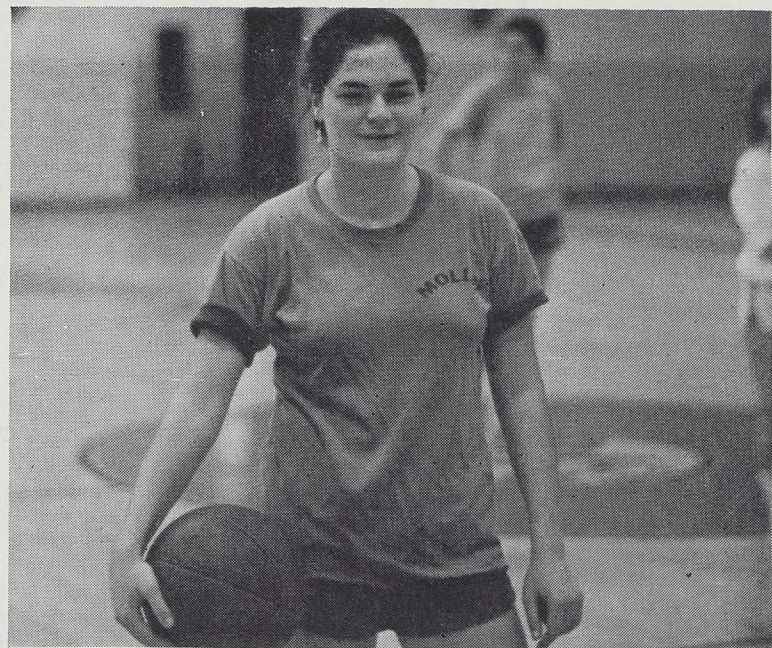
Lisa Castagliola, sophomore: "I think the best thing about the dance-a-thon was that while I was having a great time, I was helping others."

The chief organizers of this successful dance-a-thon were Mr. Joseph Campanaro, director of student activities, and Mr. Kenneth Tom, moderator of the National Honor Society. Both agreed that such a project is valuable because it raises money to help muscular dystrophy victims, it generates school spirit, and most importantly, it makes teenagers aware of the fact that they actually can do something worthwhile to help other people.

The answer as to "why" a dance-a-thon became clear to all involved when Mr. Kevin Holmes, a member of the first graduating class of Bishop Ford Diocesan High School, brought in his two youngest children, one four years of age, the other three, both of whom suffer from muscular dystrophy. The final hours found the dancers dancing even harder, more fervently, with a deeper purpose, and with tear-filled eyes.



Sportlight: MARY KAWAS



Mary Kay takes a breath.

by Angela Diorio

This month, *Sportlight* is dedicated to a girl who is very active in athletics here at Ford. This girl is none other than Mary Kawas.

Mary is involved in various sports here at Ford, such as varsity track, volleyball, softball, and last, but definitely not the least, basketball. Of all these sports, Mary enjoys basketball the most. She describes it as a fast-moving, exciting sport that always keeps her on her toes.

Mary devotes all of her free time and effort to the varsity teams she plays on. She feels a sense of pride and accomplishment knowing she gives 100% to her performance.

Although much of her time

is taken up with sports, Mary is a member of N.H.S. and also finds time to help her fellow students by tutoring. She has demonstrated her leadership qualities as captain of her parish team and Ford's varsity team.

Mary enjoys taking part in these various sports here at Ford and has developed strong bonds among all her teammates; she is well-liked and admired by them all. When asked how she feels about her teammates, she replied, "There is a strong unity among us on and off the court, and we totally support one another."

Right now Mary is undecided about her future plans concerning college, but one thing is certain: basketball will be part of these plans.

GIRL'S VARSITY TRIUMPS

by Mary Dopman

The girl's varsity basketball team is one of the most improved teams in our school. The team, which finished last year with a 5-6 overall league standing, has started the season off with a record of 6-1. They have compiled wins over Bishop Kearney and Bishop Loughlin, teams which they had not beaten since the girl's varsity was started three years ago. Their only loss was to St. Saviour by two points.

The squad is composed of Captain Mary Kawas, Co-captain Mary Dopman, Jenny Gallagher, Ann Marie Ditizio,

Deanna DeSimone, Gena Barous, Carol Dopman, Eileen Cole, Carolyn Meehan, Carolyn Barna, Yolanda Lake, Kathy Rossiter, Kristen Rower, Maria Magliamele and Kathy Powers.

Coach Schmidt has high hopes for her team. In her second year, she has worked hard with the players and her hard work has paid off. The team is on their way to their first play-off berth.

Come out and cheer on the girls to their best season ever. The team does well and deserves the support of our school. So, good luck team, we're proud of you!

SHABOOTIE! SHA-SHA-SHABOOTIE!

by Regina Brown

Last year, as many of you know, we had both a varsity and a j.v. cheerleading squad, and this continues to be so this year. The girls are a hard-working group, and they are willing to help each other out. Recently they put together a new welcome cheer, and they are now working on a half-time cheer. This would not be possible if it weren't for the help of the new coach, Miss Lorraine Sarnelle, who decided to coach the teams because she thought they needed "sprucing up" and also because the old moderator was leaving. She hopes to work out more military moves, stunts, bull jumps, cartwheels and splits, to "add a little spice to life." She would like to see help from

the male student body by having men cheerleaders. They would cheer crowds with megaphones and assist the cheerleaders in voice.

This year the squad consists of varsity captains Dalina du Saire and GERALYN Verengio, Debbie Durante, Michelle Thomas, Maribel Cruz, Neilda Giroux, Lisa Crespo, Colette Olstead, Maria Migliaccio, Stephanie Varone, Trish Dolan, Gina Schone, Susan Garcia, Tajuna Sharpe and Marie Tumaro, J.V. Captain Doris Gonzalez, Co-captain Louise Casertano, Diana Andrade, Donna Homan, Maureen Maher, Doreen Perone, Cara Cicconi, Rosemarie Fischetti, Kiki Sacerdote, Colleen Bourne, Valerie Carter, Audrey Cordero, Adrienne Ligouri, Josephine Consolo and Josephine Juliano.

FROSH BASKETBALL STEADILY IMPROVING

by Mary Dopman

The mystery of the freshman basketball team seems to be unfolding. The team (although they have the desire to win) are inexperienced and lack height. But don't put the young team out of the play-off picture; there is still hope.

The team is coached by Mr. Forte Bellino, a social studies teacher here at Ford. The squad is presently being led by Pete Nash with a scoring average of just about 18 ppg. Also helping the team in their cause are Scott Bellini, Eddie

Martin, John La Chance and Mark Golding, and finishing up the team are Vinny Mallozzi, Robert Steinrud, Andrew Sala, Ricky Benedetto, Keith Golden, Vinny Armstrong and Shannon Ferguson.

"We are improving, but so are the opposition," stated coach Bellino. "Our main problem has been rebounding because of lack of height; it has really hurt us," the coach said.

Come out and root for our team; maybe that's just what they need!

FORD TENNIS PLAYERS PROMISE SPECTACULAR SEASON

by Andrew Cole

Bishop Ford's tennis team has officially started practice for the upcoming season, and it threatens to be a good one.

Their coach, Mr. Ray Habib, predicts that the team will definitely qualify to compete in the Brooklyn-Queens C.H.S.A.A. play-offs.

The team consists of seniors John Riddle, Robert Casenya, Sherman Chin, Joseph Arancio and Joseph Palacios, juniors Paul Bresse, Andrew Cole, Michael Dellasso, Charles Espoito, and William Mulcahey,

and sophomores Noel Waters and Robert Brazzizzi. There are also many newcomers trying out for the freshmen team.

The leading singles player on the team, John Riddle, has already been offered a tennis scholarship to St. Francis College, and last year he was picked to compete on the Brooklyn-Queens C.H.S.A.A. all-star team.

Tryouts for all newcomers to the team are still being held. For more information, contact Mr. Habib.

Congratulations to Mary Kawas on scoring her thousandth point in basketball.

JUNIOR VARSITY EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

by Alyssa Maresca and Maureen Cristiano

There is a lot of talent on the junior varsity basketball team this year. They've been pretty successful this season, even with the tough schedule they've had to play. Part of their success is due to the improvement of the players since last year. Some members worked on their own during last summer to improve themselves, and Mr. Piselli, the coach, says, "If the players work hard over the summer, they have excellent chances of playing college basketball."

Another factor contributing to this success is how hard the team practices. They practice five, sometimes six days a week for an hour-and-a-half. Practices are sometimes held in the morning at 7 o'clock. According to Mr. Piselli, the team gives 100% at all the practices.

This year has been a team effort. The players work well together and are very good friends off the court; Mr. Piselli thinks they're a little too close, though.

The atmosphere in the lockerroom before a game is "Very emotional and the players get psyched up," according to Andrew Purdy, one team member.

VARSITY CONCLUDES EXCITING SEASON

by Mary Dopman

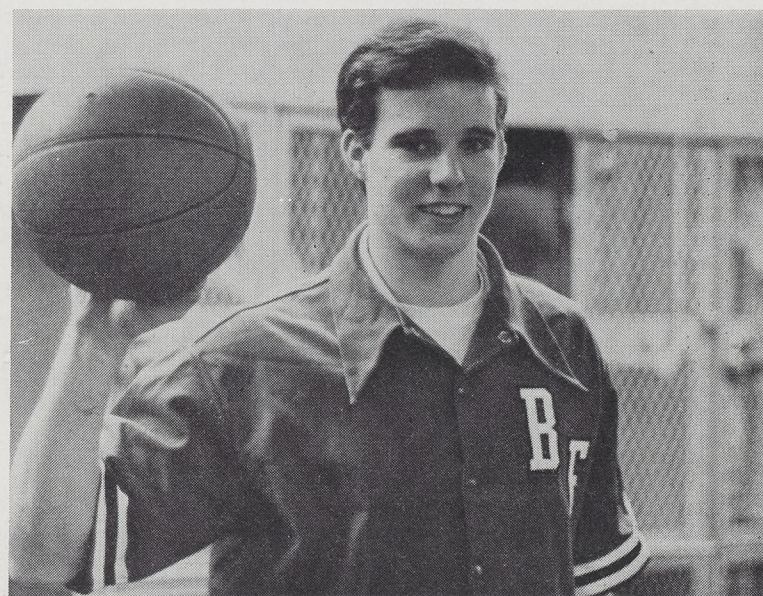
The Falcons of this year, although not the best ever to grace Ford, have provided excitement and entertainment for the many fans who have attended their games. At home they have put up tough games against top-ranked teams like Loughlin and Molloy, and away they have beaten Nazareth, a team which they have to contend with to make the play-offs. The squad placed second at Syracuse in the Bishop Ludden Tournament, while Steve Downs was named to the all-tournament team.

Coach Nash does have a task ahead of him; he must win the games he is supposed to and beat Nazareth for the third play-off spot.

The team is composed of Captain Bill Thurlow, John Godfrey, Glen Bracia, Robert Muzii, Pete Boyd, Andre Pierre, Pete Edwards, John Lantino, John Geli, Ramon Rodriguez, John McFee and Mike Scotto.

The Falcons still enjoy good crowds at their games, and this is fitting. Even when the team is losing, their spirits are high, and you can be sure the finish will be exciting.

Sportlight: BILL THURLOW



Billy smiles for the camera.

This month's *Sportlight* focuses on senior Billy Thurlow. Billy is the captain of Bishop Ford's varsity basketball team. Before entering the Ford community as a freshman, Billy played on Our Lady of Perpetual Help's grammar school basketball team, where he won many awards.

As a freshman, Billy established himself as being a good athlete by excelling in track and basketball.

Junior year was a big year for Billy because he made honorable mention in the Brooklyn-Queens Division. While a junior, Billy moved up to Bishop Ford's varsity basketball team. In senior year there was another accomplishment in Billy's life, he made Bishop Ford's chapter of The National Honor Society. This was an honor for Billy because only two percent of American high school students are in the National Honor Society.

Bill has put a lot of work into basketball and feels, "Bishop Ford's basketball program is one of the best." Bill is very optimistic about the rest of the varsity's year. As captain, he feels the team is talented and gets better with every game. Under the guidance of Mr. Nash, Bill thinks they will make the play-offs.

Even though Billy devotes a lot of time to basketball, he manages to budget his time to make sure that he has time to dedicate to his studies. Billy claims, "Education is most important in order to succeed in life and should be your prime responsibility."

After high school, Billy plans to be an engineer and would like to go to a college that has a good academic reputation, as well as a good basketball program.